Promotion of Sattra Institutions in Assam

*49. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India has received a proposal from the State Government of Assam for assistance to Sattra (Vaishnava Monasteries) Institutions of Assam for promotion of their art forms as well as for improvement of basic infrastructure and preservation of heritage properties;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and its present status of sanction, total outlay and allocation made, year-wise; and

(c) if not, whether Government has taken any programme for fulfilling those objectives?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) A proposal for protection, preservation and promotion of Sattras at an estimated cost of Rs. 96.59 crores was received from the Government of Assam and forwarded to the Planning Commission in June, 2007. They considered the proposal and advised that the State Government may submit proposals upto Rs. 25.00 crores for the current financial year, 2008-2009. Accordingly, the Government of Assam has sent a revised proposal for promotion, preservation and promotion of 33 Sattras. The project cost amounts to Rs. 25.76 crores. The proposal has been sent directly to the Planning Commission and is under consideration with them.

(c) Does not arise.

Fixation of pay

*50. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rationale for fixing the fitment multiplication factor at 1.86 for fixation of pay after Sixth Pay Commission;

(b) whether this multiplication factor is being reviewed for certain scientific organizations;

(c) whether there is any proposal/demand to enhance this multiplication factor to 2.25 from 1.86 in case of employees under the Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Space;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) by when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(g) whether Departments like Atomic Energy, Space, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) have been given flexibility to enhance this fitment factor in order to retain/attract scientific talent?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (g) The multiplication factor of 1.86 is based on the amount of pay, dearness pay and dearness allowance drawn by Central Government employees as on 1.1.2006. In addition, grade pay (where applicable), as approved by the Government, is payable. No flexibility has been given to any department to enhance the fitment factor. Further, there is no proposal to review the same and hence, the other questions do not arise.